Dear Jim,

8/2/75

Don't interrupt the too many things for which you now do not have time for reading the attached Leisinger letter of 7/31 and my today's response, which won't go out until Monday. Save it for when you want a change of pace or something to which to look forward.

I say "look forward" for many reasons. One is that I know the content and the reasons for the withholding from me with some reasonable certainty and it is to avoid official embarrassment, especially but not exclusively the CIA and the Commission. What they are still withholding must be more embarrassing that what I've gotten, which would embarrass the hell out of me. (I've given you notes on all this Kennedy stuff.)

Please note, when you read this, references to a properly unidentified researcher. I have a notion it may be Paul. You may have records that will say. He has been silent on this with me whereas on his assurance that he would never write on this I was giving him copies of all my work, including personal investigations he could not duplicate.

In any event, I think this is another of these Archives Horrors. I'll have no choice but to take my time. They keep holding back what I need. I can't rush and I don't want to. Instead I'll take the time to build a record.

What I've written Leisinger is what I spotted in a single reading, all I had time for. It is not all of what I spotted.

While I think these guys are so crooked they never believe anyone else is ever honest, Leisinger is new to me and I have taken this time in part so that if he has any concern for his own integrity or any kids and their regard for him he'll know and have a chance to clean his face. (His letter is so confused that in Item 2 he refers to see Item 2 above.) I go on the assumption that at some point there may be an honest man and that he will rebel.

However, I also believe that he will not totally ignore this letter. He'll bounce it back to Johnson, if Johnson drafted it. Or up above, where they will have to face it and more. And I would rather not have to argue and appeal. This gives them a chance to avoid trouble for them and for me.

There is an aspect I've mentioned before and I'd rather have you keep confidential, as I think I mentioned before. This whole thing is classic Hoover. He set out from the beginning to screw the CIA and the Commission with Kennedy. He not only wrote a very polite scenario (which I have) which hoist the Commission on two petards - its and his - but accurately figured that Helms and his would keep everything secret. Not without relevance is Dulles' executive session musing that Hoover had no operatives in the USSR.

I don't want to play Hoover's game. I want to build a full and honest record on the material (as well as the dishonesties in withholding. If we never know what can break this open. Kennedy aspects can. And I don't want the nuts meddling with it. And Hoover only seemed to be fully informative and forthright on Kennedy.

This is still another example of the permeating incompetence of even the big-name reporters in investigative reporting. Those who have this stuff have not understood it. The unidentified applicant seems to have been satisfied too easily.

When the time for response passed I started preparing an appeal. I have an enormous stack of notes for it. I'm sure he has not responded to all the questions I asked. There is nothing, for example on the missing scientific stuff for 226-75. I'm letting that, too, wait until I have everything they have not sent and are supposed to. I'm not sure but I'm pretty sure that where I did not invoke FOIA they made no response at all, which makes another kind of record.

I'm sending Tom a copy for his information.

Best,